

[heretofore] is not claimed as a distinct and independent invention" is now in claim 2 being thusly claimed.

Please add claim 2 as follows:

--2. A method of cutting in half in an optimum time a four-sided tile of ceramic construction material delimited by a front side, a rear side, a left side and a right side comprising the steps of:

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- A. supporting from beneath said front and rear sides said tile in a horizontal orientation with a central clearance therebeneath at a tile-cutting work station;
 - B. using a motor-operated circular cutting blade with a peripheral cutting edge at said tile-cutting work station mounted to partake from a starting clearance position a pivotal traverse to an operative position of movement into said central clearance beneath said tile with said cutting blade oriented perpendicularly of said left and right sides of said tile;
 - C. positioning said tile with a center line and a central point therealong in the path of said pivotal traverse of said cutting blade;
 - D. urging initially said cutting blade in said pivotal traverse into cutting contact at said central point of said tile to establish a start of a tile-severing cut along said center line;
 - E. continuing said pivotal traverse so as to cause said tile-severing cut starting in said tile simultaneously to enlarge in opposite directions along said center line until said left and right edges;

whereby said tile is cut in half in significantly less time than if said cut started in an edge thereof.--

Claim 2 on a separate sheet accompanies this reply.

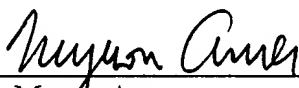
Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully,

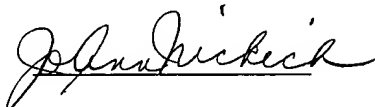
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Dated: July 19, 2002

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Dated: July 19, 2002 

2. A method of cutting in half in an optimum time a four-sided tile of ceramic construction material delimited by a front side, a rear side, a left side and a right side comprising the steps of:

- F. supporting from beneath said front and rear sides said tile in a horizontal orientation with a central clearance therebeneath at a tile-cutting work station;
- G. using a motor-operated circular cutting blade with a peripheral cutting edge at said tile-cutting work station mounted to partake from a starting clearance position a pivotal traverse to an operative position of movement into said central clearance beneath said tile with said cutting blade oriented perpendicularly of said left and right sides of said tile;
- H. positioning said tile with a center line and a central point therealong in the path of said pivotal traverse of said cutting blade;
- I. urging initially said cutting blade in said pivotal traverse into cutting contact at said central point of said tile to establish a start of a tile-severing cut along said center line;
- J. continuing said pivotal traverse so as to cause said tile-severing cut starting in said tile simultaneously to enlarge in opposite directions along said center line until said left and right edges;

whereby said tile is cut in half in significantly less time than if said cut started in an edge thereof.